

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-71 remain in the application. Claims 1, 15, 29, 43 and 57 have been amended.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference signs mentioned in the description: 12, 8, 23 and 24'.

These reference signs have been deleted and the corresponding part of the description has been appropriately amended.

In item 3 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-10, 12, 29-30, 32-33, 35, 37-38, 40, 43-44, 46-47, 49, 51-52, 54, 57-59, 61-62, 64, 66-67 and 69 have been rejected as being anticipated by Gansky et al. (US Pat. No. 4,934,264) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claims 1, 29, 43 and 57 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in Figs. 4, 6a-6b and 7 and the corresponding part of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

said connection mechanism pivoting said accessory away from the printing unit about said horizontal pivot axis and then displacing said accessory vertically along said linear guide for moving said accessory from a working position into at least one maintenance position.
(Emphasis added.)

Claim 29 calls for, inter alia:

a connection mechanism moveably fastening said accessory to the printing unit, said connection mechanism having a pivot axis, said pivot axis disposed substantially perpendicular to the rotation axis of the printing unit, said connection mechanism pivoting said accessory about said pivot axis for moving said accessory from a working position into at least one maintenance position.
(Emphasis added.)

Claim 43 calls for, inter alia:

a connection mechanism moveably fastening said accessory to the printing unit, said connection mechanism having a single horizontal pivot axis disposed below said accessory, said connection mechanism pivoting said accessory about said single horizontal pivot axis for moving said accessory from a working position into at least one maintenance position. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 57 calls for, inter alia:

a connection mechanism moveably fastening said accessory to the printing unit for moving said accessory from a working position into at least one maintenance position, said connection mechanism connecting said accessory to the printing unit causing said accessory to at least partially project into the recess of the side wall of the printing machine in said maintenance position. (Emphasis added.)

An important difference between Gansky et al. and the invention as recited in claim 1 of the instant application is that in Gansky et al. initially a linear movement of the accessory takes place and then a pivoting movement, whereas in the invention of the instant application the pivoting movement takes place first and then the linear movement. The structure recited in the claims of the instant application performs the movement as stated above.

As can be seen in Figs. 1 and 2 of Gansky et al., a linear movement of the accessory 16 takes place along the arrow 336. Then, the accessory assembly is received by the arm 44. In order to be able to carry out the pivoting movement according the arrow 342, it is necessary to carry out a further linear movement along the arrow direction 338 by means of a crank 70, which lifts the accessory assembly so as to rise above the region of the side walls of the printing unit. Only thereafter can the pivoting movement according to arrow 342 about a vertical axis take place.

In contrast, in the device according to claim 1 of the instant application, a pivot movement takes place first, which guides the accessory assembly out of the region of the printing cylinder and then the linear movement takes place vertically upwards.

According to claim 29 of the instant application, the connection mechanism pivots the accessory about an axis substantially perpendicular to the rotation axis of the printing unit. In contrast, in Gansky et al., the pivoting movement according to arrow 342 takes place only after a linear movement of the accessory 16 along the arrow 336 and a further linear movement along the arrow direction 338 by means of a crank 70.

With regard to claim 43 of the instant application, Gansky et al. do not disclose a connection mechanism having a single horizontal pivot axis disposed below the accessory.

With regard to claim 57 of the instant application, Gansky et al. do not disclose that the connection mechanism connects the accessory to the printing unit such that the accessory at least partially projects into the recess of the side wall of the printing machine in the maintenance position.

The structure according to the invention of the instant application is much more advantageous because the motion takes place simpler and thus quicker. Additionally, the pivot movement according to Gansky et al. is not possible for the printing machine with a series of printing units, because the distance between two printing units located one after the other does not allow such pivoting movement.

Clearly, Gansky et al. do not show "said connection mechanism pivoting said accessory away from the printing unit about said horizontal pivot axis and then displacing said accessory vertically along said linear guide for moving said accessory from a working position into at least one maintenance position", as recited in claim 1; "said pivot axis disposed substantially perpendicular to the rotation axis of the printing unit, said connection mechanism pivoting said accessory about said pivot axis for moving said accessory from a working position into at least one maintenance position", as recited in claim 29; "said connection mechanism having a single horizontal pivot axis disposed below said accessory", as recited in claim 43; and "said connection mechanism connecting said accessory to the printing unit such that said accessory at least partially projects into the recess of the side wall of the printing machine in said maintenance position", as recited in claim 57 of the instant application.

Claim 1, 15, 29, 43 and 57 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over Gansky et al. and since claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9-10, 12, 30, 32-33, 35, 37-38, 40, 44, 46-47, 49, 51-52, 54, 59, 61-62, 64, 66-67 and 69 are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 15, 29, 43 or 57, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 4 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 15-16, 18 and 23 have been rejected as being anticipated by Guba et al. (US Pat. No. 5,615,612) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claim 15 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in Fig. 5 and the corresponding part of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 15 calls for, inter alia:

a connection mechanism having a first pivot axis and a second pivot axis, said first pivot axis and said second pivot axis disposed outside of the printing unit.
(Emphasis added.)

Guba et al. disclose a cleaning device which, according to the Examiner's opinion, is positioned pivotable about two pivot axes. However, both pivot axes are located within the printing unit.

In contrast to Guba et al., in the device according to the invention of the instant application, the two pivot axes are each located outside of the printing unit.

Clearly, Guba et al. do not show "said first pivot axis and said second pivot axis disposed outside of the printing unit", as recited in claim 15 of the instant application.

Claim 15 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Guba et al. and since claims 16, 18 and 23 are dependent on claim 15, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 6 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 6, 11, 34, 39, 48, 53, 63 and 68 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Gansky et al. in view of Haramia et al. (US Pat. No. 3,611,923) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Examiner's opinion that the shape of the centering means is of no importance is not correct. Due to the fact that the accessory assembly can, for example, be an imaging unit, which must assume a very precise position relative to the cylinder, the shape of the centering means is indeed crucial and is thus embodied as a prism, as described in the invention of the instant application. This is not disclosed in Haramin.

As discussed above, claims 1, 29, 43 and 57 are believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 6, 11, 34, 39, 48, 53, 63 and 68 are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 29, 43 or 57, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 7 on pages 4-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 4-5, 8-10, 13, 15-16, 18-27, 29, 32-33, 36-38, 41, 43, 46-47, 50-52, 55, 57, 61-62, 65-67 and 70 have been rejected as being unpatentable over McKillip (US Pat. No. 6,182,572) in view of Bierbaum et al. (US Pat. No. 5,562,038) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The combination of McKillip and Bierbaum et al. cannot be considered to be relevant because McKillip as well as Bierbaum et al. pertain to a device for unwinding paper rolls which do not have any relation to the accessory device as described in the invention of the instant application. A clear indication thereto can clearly be seen in that both documents are assigned to the International Class B32B or B41L, respectively, whereas the device according to the invention of the instant application is assigned to B41F.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 15, 29, 43 and 57. Claims 1, 15, 29, 43 and 57 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, 15, 29, 43 or 57, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 8 on pages 5-6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 28 has been rejected as being unpatentable over McKillip in view of Bierbaum et al. and further in view of Schwarzbeck (US Pat. No. 4,572,069) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 15 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claim 28 is dependent on claim 15, it is believed to be patentable as well.

In item 9 on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 14, 42, 56 and 71 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Gansky et al. in view of Schwarzbeck under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claims 1, 29, 43 and 57 are believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 14, 42, 56 and 71 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, 29, 43 or 57, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 10 on pages 6-7 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 20 and 25 have been rejected as being unpatentable over McKillip in view of Bierbaum et al. and further in view of Haramia et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claims 15 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 20 and 25 are ultimately dependent on claim 15, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 11 on page 7 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 3, 17, 31, 45 and 60 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Since claims 1, 15, 29, 43 and 57 are believed to be patentable as discussed above and claims 3, 17, 31, 45 and 60 are dependent on claim 1, 15, 29, 43 and 57, they are believed to be patentable in dependent form. A rewrite is therefore believed to be unnecessary at this time.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-71 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section

1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with Section
1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

For Applicants

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

YHC:cgm

April 10, 2003

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

Marked-Up Version of the Amended Paragraphs in the Specification and Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims:

The paragraph starting on page 16, line 6 and ending on page 16, line 13 now reads as:

In German published, non-prosecuted patent application DE 198 14 661 [.] 2 A1, corresponding to US Patent No. 6,510,795 and US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/005133 A1, a second maintenance position is the vertical position that the accessory 1 must assume in order to allow major tasks on the printing unit 2 to be carried out. A linear guide [(labeled therein with numeral 12; hereinafter reference numerals from the parent application will be in parentheses)] serves for horizontal displacement [(23)] and a pivoting mechanism [(8)] serves for pivoting into the vertical position.

The paragraph starting on page 16, line 15 and ending on page 17, line 2 now reads as:

The printing machine 9 according to FIG. 1 is equipped with an accessory 1 and with a printing plate changing device 24, [24', respectively] shown on the three printing units 2 in different working positions. In the left printing unit 2, the accessory 1 is in its working position 3. In the working position 3, the accessory 1 images the printing plate 25 on

the plate cylinder 6, for example, by a laser. In the case of the middle printing unit 2, the accessory 1 has been displaced into a horizontal maintenance position 4, for example, to initiate a printing plate change. The right printing unit 2 indicates how the automatic printing plate changer [24'] 24 is in its printing plate changing position, in which it takes off a printing plate 25 from the plate cylinder 6 or delivers a printing plate 25 to the plate cylinder 6.

Claim 1(amended). An accessory configuration for a printing unit of a printing machine, comprising:

an accessory;

a connection mechanism moveably fastening said accessory to the printing unit, said connection mechanism having a horizontal pivot axis;

a linear guide connected to said accessory and disposed perpendicular to said horizontal pivot axis; and

said connection mechanism[:

moveably fastening said accessory to a printing unit of a printing machine;]

pivoting said accessory away from the printing unit about said horizontal pivot axis and then displacing said accessory vertically along said linear guide[; and

throwing] for moving said accessory [onto the printing unit into] from a working position [and removing said accessory from a region of the printing unit] into at least one maintenance position.

Claim 15 (amended). An accessory configuration for a printing unit of a printing machine, the printing unit having a rotation axis, the accessory configuration comprising:

an accessory;

a connection mechanism having a first pivot axis and a second pivot axis, said first pivot axis and said second pivot axis disposed outside of the printing unit;

said first pivot axis and said second pivot axis disposed substantially parallel to a rotation axis of a printing unit of a printing machine; and

said connection mechanism:

moveably fastening said accessory to the printing unit;

pivoting said accessory away from the printing unit about said first pivot axis then allowing further pivoting of said accessory about said second pivot axis; and

throwing said accessory onto the printing unit into a working position and removing said accessory from a region of the printing unit into at least one maintenance position.

Claim 29 (amended). An accessory configuration for a printing unit of a printing machine, the printing unit having a rotation axis, the accessory configuration comprising:

an accessory;

a connection mechanism moveably fastening said accessory to the printing unit, said connection mechanism having a pivot axis[;],

said pivot axis disposed substantially perpendicular to [a] the rotation axis of [a] the printing unit [of a printing machine; and],

said connection mechanism[:]

moveably fastening said accessory to the printing unit;]

pivoting said accessory about said pivot axis[; and

throwing] for moving said accessory [onto the printing unit into] from a working position [and removing said accessory from a region of the printing unit] into at least one maintenance position.

Claim 43 (amended). An accessory configuration for a printing unit of a printing machine, comprising:

an accessory;

a connection mechanism moveably fastening said accessory to the printing unit, said connection mechanism having a single horizontal pivot axis disposed below said accessory[; and],

said connection mechanism[:

moveably fastening said accessory to a printing unit of a printing machine;]

pivoting said accessory about said single horizontal pivot axis[; and

throwing] for moving said accessory [onto the printing unit into] from a working position [and removing said accessory from a region of the printing unit] into at least one maintenance position.

Claim 57(amended). An accessory configuration for a printing unit of a printing machine having a side opposite a printing machine operator and a side wall disposed at the side opposite a printing machine operator, the side wall having a recess, the accessory configuration comprising:

an accessory; and

a connection mechanism[:]

moveably fastening said accessory to [a] the printing unit [of a printing machine;

throwing] for moving said accessory [onto the printing unit into] from a working position [and removing said accessory from a region of the printing unit] into at least one maintenance position[; and], said connection mechanism

connecting said accessory to the printing unit [such that] causing said accessory to at least partially [projects] project into [a] the recess of [a] the side wall of the printing machine in [a] said maintenance position.